

Minutes of Marr College Parent Council Meeting

Wednesday 6 December 2023

Present: Susan Forsyth (Treasurer), Margaret Maciver (Secretary), Lucy Campbell, Lorna Stevenson, Graeme Hobson, Councillor Bob Pollock, Jack Broadfoot (School Captain).

Council Members: Jackie Lennox, Gail Whyte, Carolyn Jamieson, Fiona Stanbridge, Alison Braddock.

Forum Members: Charles Philippe Bernard, Nick Stewart, Katherine Self, Lorena Trejo, Margaret Ann Arnott.

Apologies: Judith McCaughey (Chair), Joanne Christopher (Vice-Chair), Kirsty Broadfoot (Minute Secretary), Lindsay Campbell, Caryn Mair, Marie-Anne Jackson, Amy Griffiths, Avril McColgan, George Docherty (Head Teacher), Councillor Kenneth Bell.

1. Welcome and apologies

Margaret welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologies were noted.

Lorna Stevenson introduced SCQF Ambassadors Olivia, Jack, Eva and Vivien who then delivered a presentation on SCQF framework. They explained that SCQF offers students alternative qualifications to NAT5s and Highers. It offers flexibility and helps students explore different pathways for future careers. A video on the topic was also shown. The Ambassadors went on to discuss stats around SCQF, what qualifications Marr are already running and feedback from employers on these qualifications. They also discussed their own learner journeys and the benefits of SCQF.

Lorna explained the group meets regularly and they are hoping to get into PSE classes in January to tell students about SCQF to allow them to consider their options.

2. Action Review

Margaret explained that the report on Summarised Findings that George had asked to be circulated prior to the meeting would be discussed at the January meeting.

3. Captains Report

Jack presented the Captains Report. S1 Halloween disco was held in October. It was a great night with prizes for best costumes. The S6 leadership team are meeting with Mr Docherty each week to look at improvements within the school. A Remembrance Day parade took place in November and Jack had the opportunity to speak in church. The STEM ambassadors have recently started a science club – S1s are able to take part in experiments. The club runs each Wednesday after school. Children in Need took place over a week this year with each house organising a day of events. £500 was raised for the charity. Events such as sponge the teacher, girls v boys hockey and guess the sweets in the jar were among the activities that were held during the week.

4. Head Teacher's Report

Graeme updated parents on a couple of events: there was a walkaround on 15 December – this is an annual event where the feeder primaries come up to Marr and take part in a treasure hunt. This was held in conjunction with Christmas jumper day.

Graeme noted that there had been additional donations for the dress down day on 13 October via Parent Pay so the total was a lot higher than £90.

5. Approval of Minutes

The Minutes of the last meeting were approved by Jackie Lennox and Alison Braddock.

6. Lucy Campbell – Careers/Options

Lucy introduced herself – she has taken over from Robert McLaughlin as Principal Teacher of DYW. She explained there had been a number of DYW trips which had taken place recently.

- A two-day trip for S1s to Ayrshire College – they got to hear about lots of different courses.
- UWS trip for S5 pupils to find out about foundation academy. Since the trip, UWS have come in and held an assembly for S5. This is a good option for students as it provides a 10-week programme which leads to students getting a B grade when applying for college.
- 118 S2 pupils were taken to the Ayr show. There were lots of different stalls including flight simulations and drones. There was also a jet pack show which was incredible.

- 16 S5 and 6 pupils went on a creative industries trip. Workshops included drawing, print making, sound production. It was a great networking opportunity.
- 8 S3 and 4 pupils had a UWS taster day. They learned about sports coaching and media broadcasting and basic life support – particularly useful for nursing students.

Lucy went on to speak about work placements and explained that work they would be split up between set placements during the second week in January and final week in May which would be for pupils not doing Nat 5 and Highers. There are lots of flexi placements which could be self-found by guidance teachers or pupils. Pupils can come to Lucy to express an interest in a particular employer/area. Recently a pupil had a placement with Stagecoach for engineering. In January some S5 pupils are going to Dumfries House to for a placement on aircraft skills. Some future medics went to Ayr Hospital and there has also been a placement for a student interested in Law. Lucy explained that she will be focusing on volunteering in the coming term – targeting employers who regularly use volunteers. Staff are being encouraged to put all pupils through saltire award. All opportunities posted on assembly Teams page. Lucy is targeting certain groups and pupils. An S2 girls' engineering programme has started. Pupils will be going to Strathclyde in January as part of a programme organised through Weir Group.

Mock interviews took place during careers week in November. All s5 pupils had the chance to take part in this. Feedback was extremely positive, 130 out of 150 pupils turned up. Employers spoke about how mature they found the pupils and how good they were at communicating. Next proposed event – careers day Friday 9th Feb. Employers will be invited between 9am and 12.30pm. Pupils will visit stalls between 9.30am and 12pm and they will then take part in afternoon workshops. There will be a separate pathways and options evening on Thursday 15th Feb. There will be stalls and the opportunity to speak with employers. Many employers have already confirmed to attend on the 9th. Lucy asked for help from PC to decide which year groups to target. There are gaps in health sector, retail and trades. Letter has been sent to all S1 parents asking for help in suggesting employers who could attend. Bob Pollock suggested contacting SAC. Number of departments struggling to recruit. After discussion it was decided that S3 and S4 are the most appropriate years to target. It was agreed to catch up before Christmas to take this forward and Margaret, Carolyn, Alison and Charles volunteered to help. Feedback from last year was that the event was too busy and some parents could not get parked. Lucy asked for suggestions for the afternoon workshop. Interview techniques/preparation was suggested. A mock interview event could be

held after exams. It was agreed to have an event for S2 parents on a separate night as the info they would look for differs from those with pupils in S3/4. Other feedback from last year's event was that parents didn't have opportunity to speak with guidance teachers so this year they could be based in a central location. Lucy explained that 'My world of work live' will be providing construction drones for tech classes. There will also be a session on cyber security and hacking. College partnerships – Lucy has a meeting every 6 weeks with representatives from different colleges. She went on to tell the group about a Step up to college course – Lucy and alternative curriculum principle are organising this. The aim of the course is to help students get ready to progress into college courses. There is also an S2 taster day where pupils can go to Ayrshire College for a 2-day experience.

7. Christmas Concert

Donations for raffle – Carolyn co-ordinating. There have not been many returns. Invites have been sent out. School assistants organising the raffle. PC asked to organise refreshments. PC will buy tea and coffee etc. Graeme will organise kids to help. Carolyn tried to get people to take stalls but only a few interested. PC will split panto trip goodie bags.

8. Next month's agenda

School uniform update.

9. AOCB

School trips were discussed, in particular the trip to Spain.

Date of next meeting – Wednesday 6th March 2024.